

# National Training Center for Family Planning

## Quarterly E-Newsletter

September 2009

[www.fpntc.org](http://www.fpntc.org)

Issue 6

### Greetings!

We are pleased to bring you the sixth edition of the National Training Center (NTC) for Family Planning E-Newsletter. The goal of this quarterly newsletter is to keep you informed of the latest news and recent and upcoming events related to training for family planning providers.

The purpose of the NTC for Family Planning is to assist the Office of Population Affairs, Office of Family Planning (OPA/OFP) and their Title X Regional and National Training Centers in planning, developing, and coordinating training activities in order to enhance and support training of personnel to carry out Family Planning service programs. Cicatelli Associates Inc (CAI) coordinates the NTC for OPA/OFP.

We hope you will find this quarterly newsletter useful, and welcome your comments and suggestions about how to improve both our newsletter and related website, [www.fpntc.org](http://www.fpntc.org). Please send us ideas for items – or completed articles – you would like to see featured in the e-newsletter. Contact [doris@cicatelli.org](mailto:doris@cicatelli.org).

Sincerely,

*Kathryn Gates-Ferris*, Project Director  
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### Featured Items

- **Identifying Missed Opportunities for Chlamydia Screening Among Young, At-Risk Females**
- **Male Health Educator Training Institute 2009**
- **NTC Resource Database Updates**
- **National Title X Grantee Conference Successful**

### RTC Highlights

- **Region IX: Integrating HIV Services in Native Communities Audio Conference on September 22**

### Upcoming National Events

- **January 27-28, 2010** – *National and Regional Training Centers Annual Meeting* in Phoenix, AZ
- **April 27-29, 2010** – *HIV Prevention Grantee Technical Support Conference* in Tampa, FL

**visit our website: [www.fpntc.org](http://www.fpntc.org)**

## **Featured Items**

### **Identifying Missed Opportunities for Chlamydia Screening Among Young, At-Risk Females**

Chlamydia screening as part of an initial or annual exam is a routine matter for many Title X clinics. But what happens if a young woman comes to your clinic for other services – say a pregnancy test or emergency contraception? Or what if her first Pap test –because American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) guidelines don't recommend it until three years after first sexual intercourse or by age 21 – is not required at this visit? If she is at risk for an unplanned pregnancy, she is also at risk for a sexually transmitted infection. If your clinic is only screening users who have a “tabled” exam, you may be missing chlamydia infections in the most at-risk population.

Several pilot studies conducted across the nation have shown that family planning users requesting walk-in pregnancy test only (PTO) services represent a group of young sexually active women at high risk of chlamydial infection. Providing chlamydia testing during PTO visits can be an opportunity to increase the identification of currently undiagnosed chlamydial infection within your clinic population. “When NAAT (nucleic acid amplification testing) is performed in clinics offering urine-based screening, these users have high rates of chlamydial infection compared with users in the same clinics screened via cervical swab.”<sup>1</sup>

CDC recommends annual screening of all sexually active women aged  $\geq 25$  (i.e.  $<26$ ) years for chlamydia. In order to assess chlamydia screening coverage among females attending Title X family planning clinics, CDC devised a measure of effectiveness examining the proportion of unique female users screened for chlamydia by age group. This assessment draws upon readily available Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR) data reported by all Title X grantees to the Office of Population Affairs (OPA).

Since 2005 (the first year grantees were required to report specifically on the number of users that received a chlamydia test), screening coverage in family planning has hovered around 50% among the most at-risk females aged 15-24 years. According to national prevalence monitoring data for the year 2007, the median state-specific chlamydia positivity among these users was high at 6.9% (range: 2.9% to 16.8%).

In order to increase the proportion of young females aged  $\geq 26$  years screened for chlamydia, programs should consider missed opportunities for screening at-risk young women. Chlamydia testing is often performed as part of a pelvic exam. However, the provision of family planning services has changed over time. Specifically, many family planning clinics offer “streamlined” services to young women that do not require a pelvic exam, including pregnancy testing, emergency contraception, and HIV testing. It is important to understand which clients receive a chlamydia test and which do not, the characteristics of these clients (especially age), clinic protocols, and the circumstances under which chlamydia testing is offered in order to explore opportunities to close gaps in screening coverage.

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<sup>1</sup> Chlamydia Positivity among Women coming into Title X Family Planning Clinics for Pregnancy Testing Only: A summary of demonstration projects conducted in Regional Infertility Prevention Projects, 1997-2005. Linda Dicker (CDC), Dawn Middleton (Region III), Adelbert James (Region IV), Karla Johnson (Region VII), Pat Blackburn (Region IX), Debra Mosure (CDC), Dorothy Gunter (CDC).

Each of the ten Regional Infertility Prevention Projects (IPP) is currently conducting an assessment to better understand characteristics of family planning users that are not getting a chlamydia test, and what types of services these users are receiving. This information will be used to help programs identify pilot strategies for expanding screening to the most at-risk populations.

For more information, please contact your Regional IPP Infrastructure, or email Dawn Middleton ([dmiddleton@cicatelli.org](mailto:dmiddleton@cicatelli.org)) or Kelly Opdyke ([kopdyke@cicatelli.org](mailto:kopdyke@cicatelli.org)).

### **Male Health Educator Training Institute 2009**

The Male Health Educator Training Institute (MHETI) was held July 12-17, 2009 in Dearborn, Michigan. The goal of this annual weeklong seminar is to support Title X agencies in working around male reproductive health. It is designed to provide health educators with comprehensive knowledge of reproductive health, family planning and basic health education competencies to enable them to work more effectively with male clients in family planning programs and clinics.

In order to participate in the MHETI, agencies submitted an application to their region's RPC, who then made recommendations to the OPA for attendees. The 29 applicants that were selected represented each Title X region, including Guam and American Samoa.

Topics covered at the seminar included Reproductive Health, Fatherhood, Intimate Partner Violence, and Cultural Competency. Attendees evaluated the workshops and were very satisfied with the topics and presentations, adding that they were excited to incorporate the new material into their initiatives around male health. Faculty at the event, which was coordinated by David Johnson from OPA/ OFP and the NTC staff, were nationally recognized trainers and experts in the fields of male health, sexuality, and health education, including David Bell, Rick Brown, Hector Campos, Joan Garrity, Wayne Pawlowski, Ira Sengupta, and Pamela Wilson.

### **The NTC Resource Database Updates**

The NTC Resource Database continues to be updated regularly. Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and Training Centers (TCs) may access the database to search for and add tools and resources that may be of assistance in training and working with Title X agencies. TCs can also go to the NTC website to search for consultants and trainers. A recently addition to the NTC database is listed below:

Z-Atlas, America's health index, provides tools and information for understanding the health of the US population. Organized by disease, the atlases provide users with unparalleled access to zip-code-based maps and information on incidence, prevalence, and costs. Profiling each disease, the atlases allow users to monitor health status by state, by county, by metropolitan statistical area, or by legislative district. The following atlases are currently online: Chronic Kidney Disease Atlas; Diabetes Atlas; Cardiovascular Disease Atlas; and HIV/AIDS Atlas. Registration for the atlas is free and confidential.

To browse the NTC Resource Database, please visit [www.cicatelli.org/NTC/ToolsResources.asp](http://www.cicatelli.org/NTC/ToolsResources.asp).

## **National Title X Grantee Conference Successful**

The bi-annual Title X Grantee meeting was recently held August 19-21, 2009 in Chicago, and close to 300 Title X staff attended. The goal of the meeting was to communicate OPA/OFP policies, initiatives, and priorities as well as accomplishments. Over the 2 1/2 days, almost 30 presenters provided updates on OPA-funded projects, information on national issues facing family planning providers, and acknowledgement of the important role family planning has in maintaining the health of our nation. The highlight of the meeting was an inspirational presentation on the last day by Dr. Howard Koh, the new Assistant Secretary for Health.

## ***RTC News***

### **Region IX: Integrating HIV Services in Native Communities Audio Conference**

On September 22 from 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm Pacific Time, the Region IX RTC will be hosting an audio conference titled, “Integrating HIV Services in Native Communities.” Native American and Alaska Native communities are among the most disproportionately affected by chronic diseases, including HIV. This 90-minute audio conference will focus on the importance of integrating HIV services into clinical settings that serve Native Americans/Alaska Natives. It will outline some of the unique issues that make HIV integration so important and yet challenging in these settings.

Topics will include:

- Why HIV integration is important for clinics serving Native communities
- Cultural amplifiers that increase HIV risk
- Lessons learned from providers who have integrated HIV services in Native communities
- Resources to assist with HIV integration

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during Q&A periods during the call. To register for this audio conference, please visit <http://www.centerforhealthtraining.org/index.html>.

## ***Upcoming National Events***

**January 27-28, 2010** *National and Regional Training Centers Annual Meeting* in Phoenix, Arizona. The 2010 meeting of the OPA-funded national and regional training centers is scheduled for Phoenix. The meeting agenda is currently under development.

**April 27-29, 2010** *HIV Prevention Grantee Technical Support Conference* in Tampa, Florida. The 2010 meeting of the OPA-funded HIV Prevention Grantees will be held in Tampa. The objectives of this annual conference are to update HIV Prevention projects on recent initiatives and advancements in HIV prevention; to explore strategies to improve integration of routine testing; to strengthen partnerships among the projects and grantees, both regionally and nationally; and to build skills related to prevention education and HIV/AIDS counseling. Registration information should be available by January 2010. Presentations and topics covered at previous conferences can be viewed and downloaded at [www.cicatelli.org/opa](http://www.cicatelli.org/opa).